

Act, the Secretary of Defense shall report to Congress on—

(1) the cost to the Department of Defense of providing a matching payment with respect to contributions made to the Thrift Savings Fund by members of the Armed Forces;

(2) the effect that requiring such a matching payment would have on recruitment and retention; and

(3) any other information that the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

**TITLE II—SPECIAL SURVIVOR INDEMNITY ALLOWANCE FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF ARMED FORCES MEMBERS**

**SEC. 201. INCREASE IN MONTHLY AMOUNT OF SPECIAL SURVIVOR INDEMNITY ALLOWANCE FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AFFECTED BY REQUIRED SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY OFFSET FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) PAYMENT AMOUNT PER FISCAL YEAR.—Paragraph (2) of section 1450(m) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

“(F) for months during fiscal year 2014, \$150;

“(G) for months during fiscal year 2015, \$200;

“(H) for months during fiscal year 2016, \$275; and

“(I) for months during fiscal year 2017, \$310.”.

(b) DURATION.—Paragraph (6) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “February 28, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2017”; and

(2) by striking “March 1, 2016” both places it appears and inserting “October 1, 2017”.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this will be the last vote of the week. We have a lot of work going on in the committees and that will continue on Monday. The next vote will be Tuesday morning. I will confer with the distinguished Republican leader as to what time we will do that and what it is going to be on for sure. We think we know, but there will be a vote Tuesday morning.

Everyone has been notified, but to make sure that people understand, when we come back after the July 4 recess, we are going to be in session for 5 weeks. The House will be in session for only 4 weeks. We have 5 weeks and we are going to work very hard during that period of time. I have had requests from the managers of the bill, the health care bill, Senator BAUCUS and DODD, that we need every day of that break so there is only going to be 1 day that there will be no votes—Mondays and Fridays there will be votes—which is Friday, July 17.

The first day we get back we are going to have a Monday morning vote, to show everybody we are serious about this. So the day we get back there will be a Monday morning vote. We have a tremendous amount of work to do. We not only have health care, which is going to take so much of our time, but

we are in the appropriations process. The House is going to pass all their appropriations bills by the end of the July recess. I don't know if we can meet that schedule—it is somewhat doubtful—but we are going to pass some bills. We are going to try to get to one this work period.

Without going into more detail, the next work period is going to be extremely long, arduous, and extremely important.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the leader withhold his request for a quorum call?

Mr. REID. I withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wish to propound a unanimous consent request. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 97, the nomination of Hilary Chandler Tompkins to be Solicitor of the Department of Interior, the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table with no further motion to be in order, that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, and upon confirmation the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. With all due respect to my colleague from New Mexico, I am advised that the nomination has not yet been cleared on this side. We are going to keep working on it, but at this time I must object and I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is noted.

The majority leader is recognized.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know my friend, the distinguished Senator from Texas, wishes to speak for up to 20 minutes, is that right?

Mr. CORNYN. That is my wish.

Mr. REID. We have Senators on this side. What I would ask consent to do is have Senator BINGAMAN be recognized for up to 3 minutes, Senator CORNYN be recognized for up to 20 minutes, and then I will be recognized following his statement. Following me, Senator DORGAN be recognized.

I ask we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes, with the exceptions I noted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

**NOMINATION OF HILARY CHANDLER TOMPKINS**

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, let me state I am disappointed to see the objection still raised to the confirmation of Hilary Chandler Tompkins to be the Solicitor for the Department of Interior. She is extremely well qualified. No one has raised any question about her qualifications. Our former colleague, now Secretary Salazar, needs a Solicitor in the Department of Interior.

We reported her nomination out of our committee on April 30, nearly 6 weeks ago now. There has been something of a rolling hold on her nomination.

I know Senator BENNETT had an objection at one point; that has been satisfied. Senator COBURN had an objection; that has been satisfied. Senator BUNNING had an objection; that has been satisfied. Now I am informed there are additional objections.

I hope very much my colleagues on the Republican side will go ahead and approve her for confirmation quickly so that Secretary Salazar can get on with the important business of the Department of Interior.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

**HEALTH CARE REFORM**

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes talking about the importance and challenge of health care reform, something that is on the fast track in the Senate.

Recently, as I traveled my State of 24 million people, I heard many similar themes from my constituents. What they told me is that our top priority ought to be reducing the cost of health care because, of course, by reducing the cost it becomes more affordable by more people and we attack what is one of the other principal concerns, and certainly one of mine, and that is too many people who are uninsured in this country.

We know cost is one reason why 46 million people are not insured in this country, some of whom have good jobs that pay well, but if they are young they would rather put the money in their pocket than pay for health care. Others have different circumstances, maybe small businesses that are priced out of the market.

It is a fact that American families have seen their health care premiums double over the last 10 years. My constituents and the American people generally are also very concerned about our future. As they see so much borrowing and so much spending here in Washington, they worry about the fact that Medicare, which is the health care program for seniors, has an unfunded liability of \$38 trillion. So, to understand, while we have roughly \$2 trillion in annual deficits running, we also have \$38 trillion in unfunded Federal liabilities for Medicare and the trust